

REMARKS

Claims pending in the instant application are numbered 1-29. Claims 1-12 and 18-29 presently stand rejected. Claims 13-17 are allowed. Claims 1-12 and 18-29 have been cancelled without prejudice. The Applicants respectfully request reconsideration of the present application in view of the amendments and the following remarks.

Amendments to the Specification

The specification has been amended to include information regarding a co-pending application. No new matter has been added. The Applicants respectfully request the amendments to the specification be entered.

35 U.S.C. § 102 and § 103 Rejections

The Application was subject to a final Office Action mailed July 3, 2003. Claims 1-5, 10, 18-20 and 23-27 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 102(e) as being anticipated by Weber et al., U.S. Patent Number 6,084,992. Claims 6-9 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over Weber. Claims 11-12, 21-22 and 28-29 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over Weber and Lagali et al., U.S. Patent Number 6,222,955.

Claims 1-12 and 18-29 have been cancelled without prejudice. Thus, the instant § 102 and § 103 rejections have been rendered moot. Therefore, the Applicants respectfully request that the instant § 102 and § 103 rejections be withdrawn.

Conclusion

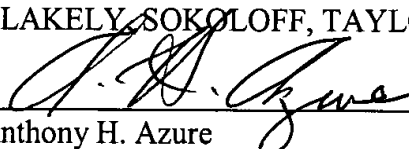
The Applicants respectfully submit that in view of the amendments and remarks set forth herein, all pending claims are in condition for allowance. Therefore, the Applicants respectfully request the Examiner to issue a Notice of Allowance in this case.

Charge Deposit Account

Please charge our Deposit Account No. 02-2666 for any additional fee due in this matter.

Respectfully submitted,
BLAKELY SOKOLOFF, TAYLOR & ZAFMAN

Date: 8-15-03


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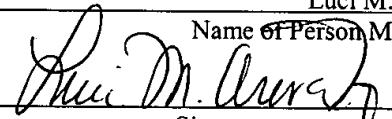
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